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Working Today For Michigan's Tomorrow

Jobs, Families & Education Top GOP Senate '04 Agenda

Sikkema: "Senate Republicans are going to work for what's best for Michigan's families, not what's easiest for state government"

LANSING – Senate Republicans today outlined a bold 35-point legislative agenda that focuses on creating jobs, strengthening families and continuing to improve the quality of Michigan schools while also bringing state spending in line with existing revenues.

"This is a bold and proactive caucus agenda, one based on Michigan's priorities," Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema said. "This agenda makes it clear that Senate Republicans are going to work for what's best for Michigan's families, not what's easiest for state government."

Sikkema, R-Wyoming, said another looming state budget deficit will force lawmakers to refine spending priorities for the 2005 fiscal year budget, but he is confident progress can be made on the caucus agenda nonetheless.

(M O R E)

“We have to keep moving Michigan forward and make the state more competitive for job growth and business investment,” Sikkema said. “Senate Republicans have set our goals high because Michigan’s families have lofty expectations of us.”

The 2004 Senate Republican Caucus Agenda covers a broad range of topics and priorities focused on growing the economy and creating jobs, protecting the environment, common sense land use regulations, lowering health care costs and increasing accessibility, strengthening and protecting families, reducing state spending, and continuing Senate oversight of government activities. *(A copy of the 2004 Senate Republican Caucus Agenda is attached.)*

Sikkema said the Republican Caucus will soon announce Phase II of its JOBS Action Plan to spur job growth and economic investment. Sikkema says Phase II picks up where the Republican’s nine-point JOBS Action Plan introduced in 2003 left off. The goal is to position Michigan as quickly as possible to take advantage of the growing economy happening across the nation and to seek out new economies and industries driven by Michigan’s high-tech workforce and world-class research and development resources.

“We must create Michigan’s future now,” Sikkema said. “We cannot wait, as we have in recessions passed, for an improving national economy to make its way to Michigan.”